

REMARKS

Title

The Examiner stated that the title of the invention is not descriptive and required a new title that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

The title has been amended to more accurately describe the claimed invention.

35 U.S.C. § 112 Rejections

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-22 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The Examiner states in claim 1, it appears that the limitation “conductive material defining at least one wall of a well to receive a device under test” is inaccurate because the conductive material (222) does not receive a device under test but the non-conductive material (224) does.

Claim 1 has been amended to include at least one block on a base layer defining at least one wall of a well to receive a device to be tested. Specifically, claim 1 includes the limitation “at least one block on the base layer comprising a conductive material and a first non-conductive material covering the conductive material, the at least one block defining at least one wall of a well to receive a device to be tested.”

Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 as amended accurately describes the claimed invention.

The Examiner also states that in claim 13, it is unclear what "a gap" represents.

Claim 13 has been cancelled.

The Examiner also states that in claim 14, it is unclear what "a gap" represents.

Applicant submits that the gap of claim 14 is described as a "passage" on page 6, lines 8-10, of the specification as filed and indicated by reference numeral 214 in Figure 3.

The Examiner states in claim 15, it appears that the limitation "conductive material defining at least one wall of a well to receive a device under test" is inaccurate because the conductive material (222) does not receive a device under test but the non-conductive material (224) does.

Claim 15 has been amended to include a plurality of blocks on a base layer defining at least one wall of a well to receive a device to be tested. Specifically, claim 15 includes the limitation "at least one block on the base layer comprising a conductive material and a first non-conductive material covering the conductive material, the at least one block defining at least one wall of a well to receive a device to be tested, a surface of the base layer defining a floor of the well, the conductive material being connected to the at least one conductive post."

Applicant respectfully submits that claim 15 as amended accurately describes the claimed invention.

The Examiner also states that in claim 16, it is unclear whether a plurality of blocks of conductive material is different from the conductive material as recited in claim 1 and that it is unclear what "spaces" represent.

Claim 16 has been amended to more fully describe the claimed invention and the reference to "a plurality of blocks" has been incorporated into the amended claim 15.

Applicant submits that the spaces of claim 16 are described as "passages" on page 6, lines 8-10, of the specification as filed and indicated by reference numeral 214 in Figure 3.

Claims 2-12 and 17-22 are dependent on either claim 1 or claim 15 and should be allowable for the same reasons as claims 1 and 15 stated above.

Applicant, accordingly, respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-22 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-22 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which is not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the arts to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention.

The Examiner states that it appears that the limitation of "conductive material defining at least one wall of a well to receive a device under test" as recited in claim 1 and the limitation of "the embedded conductive material defining at least one wall of a well to receive a device under test" as recited in claims 1 and 15, respectively, do not have sufficient support in the elected species Figure 3 because the conductive material (222) does not receive a device under test but the conductive material (224) does.

Claim 1 has been amended to include at least one block on a base layer defining at least one wall of a well to receive a device to be tested. Specifically, claim 1 includes the limitation "at least one block on the base layer comprising a conductive material and a first non-conductive material covering the conductive material, the at least one block defining at least one wall of a well to receive a device to be tested."

Claim 15 has been amended to include a plurality of blocks on a base layer defining at least one wall of a well to receive a device to be tested. Specifically, claim 15 includes the limitation "a plurality of blocks on the base layer, each block comprising a conductive material having a first height and non-conductive material covering the conductive material, each block defining at least one wall of a well to receive a device to be tested having a second height, the conductive material of each block being connected to at least one of the conductive posts, a surface of the base layer defining a floor of the well, the first height being greater than the second height."

Claims 2-14 and 16-22 are dependent on either claim 1 or claim 15 and should be allowable for the same reasons stated above.

Applicant, accordingly, respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1-22 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which is not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the arts to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention.

35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejections

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Takamine.

Claim 1 has been amended to include at least one block on a base layer having a conductive material and a first non-conductive material covering the conductive material and defining at least one wall of a well to receive a device to be tested. Specifically, claim 1 includes the limitation "at least one block on the base layer comprising a conductive material and a first non-conductive material covering the conductive material, the at least one block defining at least one wall of a well to receive a device to be tested."

Takamine discloses a jig 10 for testing high speed integrated circuit devices 52 (Abstract). The test jig 10 includes a disk shaped upper dielectric layer 12 and a lower dielectric layer 14 which sandwich a ground plane 16 therebetween. Ground plane 16 takes the form a copper sheet which have been affixed to the opposing

inner surfaces of the dielectric layers 12 and 14 by suitable adhesives such as pre-preg. (Col. 4, lines 17-23). The upper surface of dielectric layer 12 includes a rectangular cut-out portion 20. A plurality of extremely thin signal carrying traces 22 have inner ends which terminate immediately adjacent the edges of the cut-out portion 20. (Col. 4, lines 37-41). As illustrated in Figure 4, the jig 10 does not have any blocks of conductive and non-conductive material thereon. Specifically, Takamine does not disclose at least one block on a base layer having a conductive material and a non-conductive material covering the conductive material and defining at least one wall of a well to receive a device to be tested.

Therefore, claim 1 is not anticipated by Takamine because claim 1 includes a limitation that is not disclosed in Takamine.

Claims 2 and 3 are dependent on claim 1 and should be allowable for the same reasons as claim 1 stated above.

Applicant, accordingly, respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Takamine.

Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite or assist in the allowance of the present application, the Examiner is invited to call Michael A. Bernadicou at (408) 720-8300.

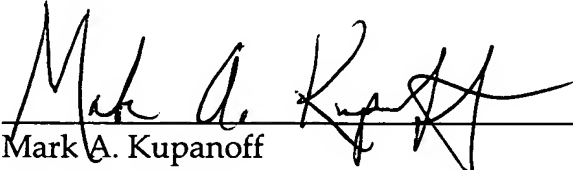
Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.136(a)(3), applicant(s) hereby request and authorize the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office to (1) treat any concurrent or future reply that requires a petition for extension of time as incorporating a petition for extension of

time for the appropriate length of time and (2) charge all required fees, including extension of time fees and fees under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 and 1.17, to Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

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